

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Dr. and Mrs. Boehm on the occasion of this well-deserved honor. Their commitment to their community is an example and an inspiration to others and has greatly improved the quality of life in northeastern Pennsylvania.

#### HONORING GERALDINE FERRARO

#### HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2009*

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a former Member of Congress, a long time advocate of women's rights, the first female Vice Presidential candidate, and a great friend and American—the Honorable Geraldine Anne Ferraro.

In the rotunda of the Capitol sit the busts of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Lucretia Mott. They are so prominently displayed to pay tribute to their hard fight to establish equal rights for women. And, I know they would agree that Geraldine Ferraro was exactly the kind of woman they were fighting for.

Geraldine proudly followed in the footsteps of these great women—continuing the fight to ensure the rights of women and breaking down barriers and stereotypes along the way.

Prior to running for election to the House of Representatives, Geraldine Ferraro worked as a teacher and then attorney in the Queens New York District Attorney's office, where she started the Special Victims Bureau. At a time when women prosecutors in the city were uncommon, Geraldine Ferraro was already breaking the proverbial glass ceiling.

In 1978, Ambassador Ferraro ran for election to the House of Representatives for New York's 9th Congressional District in Queens, and won. Despite being a new Member of Congress, she made quite an impression on her colleagues, and quickly ascended to become the Secretary of the House Democratic Caucus from 1981 to 1985. During her years in Congress, she focused much of her legislative attention on equity for women in the areas of wages, pensions, and retirement plans. The recent passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and the Paycheck Fairness Act are homage to her tireless work on behalf of women.

Her leadership, charisma, and dedication were evident to Presidential nominee, Walter Mondale, who selected Geraldine Ferraro to be his Vice-Presidential candidate on July 12, 1984. She is the first woman ever to be nominated as vice-presidential candidate by any major party.

Following the path of women who came before her, Geraldine Ferraro has helped pave the way for our daughters to achieve anything they set their minds to. As the current Representative of her former district, I am proud to call Geraldine Ferraro a leader, a mentor, and most importantly a friend.

CONGRATULATING PHIL KEOGHAN ON HIS AMAZING RIDE ACROSS AMERICA TO RAISE AWARENESS OF MS

#### HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2009*

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, yesterday I had the pleasure to meet Phil Keoghan host of CBS's Amazing Race as he stopped in Washington, DC, on his way from Los Angeles to New York. His journey across America by bike is designed to raise awareness of multiple sclerosis—a disease I feel strongly about educating people and promoting research for treatment and cures.

MS is a disease that can stop people from moving—something many of us take for granted each day. Too little is known about MS, too few treatments exist and too many people struggle to access the treatments they are prescribed. During his journey across the United States Phil has climbed many hills and faced downpours of rain, all designed to support the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

As co-chair of the Congressional MS Caucus I have had the privilege of meeting many inspirational people like Phil Keoghan who are working on behalf of people living with MS. The awareness he and others have brought to multiple sclerosis and cycling as a healthy activity is invaluable. I am pleased of the work the MS Caucus has been able to do in just a short amount of time, but there is certainly still more to be done.

As we in Congress debate health care reform it is important to keep in mind that the current system is broken for millions of Americans, specifically over 45 million Americans without coverage, and it must be fixed now. Everyone is deserving of the right to affordable and accessible health care—something Phil has championed.

We have a lot of work ahead of us but we have great momentum. Inspirational activists like Phil Keoghan will help make sure that we do something about MS now. I congratulate Phil for undertaking this worthwhile challenge and wish him luck in his final days in his trip across the U.S.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2009*

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, May 4th, I remained in my district due to the death of my Aunt Julia Tagliabue Mondawho recently passed away at the age of 96, and I therefore missed the two rollcall votes of the day.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 229, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended—H. Con. Res. 93—Recognizing the historical significance of the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo.

Lastly, had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 230, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended—H. Res. 230—Recognizing the 61st anniversary of the Independence of the State of Israel.

SUPPORTING THE OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

SPEECH OF

#### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 27, 2009*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 337, a resolution to recognize April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Every year, thousands of children across the country become victims of child abuse. More than 5.8 million children in the United States were reported to be abused or neglected in 2007, and many more cases go unreported.

All children deserve to be raised in a safe and nurturing environment. It is a tragedy when children are victimized by abuse, neglect, alcohol and drug abuse, or domestic violence. As a former board member of Minnesota Crisis Nurseries, I fully recognize the importance of strengthening child abuse prevention programs in Minnesota and throughout the United States. Early prevention approaches that utilize family support networks are critical to stopping child abuse before it starts.

H. Res. 337 calls for increased public awareness of the maltreatment of children. This resolution also recognizes the many national and community organizations that promote awareness of child abuse and share strategies for prevention. It further urges families and individuals to report abuse or to get help by calling the National Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-4-A-Child.

I will continue working to strengthen child abuse prevention programs in Minnesota and throughout the United States. Keeping children and families safe must be a priority if we are to ensure the well being of our Nation's future—its children.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this bill.

CONGRATULATING JOHN EDD THOMPSON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM WALA-TV "FOX10"

#### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2009*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with both pride and pleasure that I rise today to honor the career of Mobile's beloved television weather anchor, John Edd Thompson.

A native of Mobile, John Edd is perhaps the most recognized name and face in television weather along the Gulf Coast. He has been a fixture on Mobile's WALA-TV "Fox10" for over three decades and, during this time, he has been the trusted source of information for every major storm. John Edd has tracked and reported on Hurricanes Frederic, Elena, Andrew, Opal, Erin, Danny, Georges, Ivan, and Katrina.

Since Mobile's Press-Register introduced its Readers' Choice Awards in 2002, John Edd has always placed first in the final results. He was named "Readers' Choice Local TV